

REMARKS

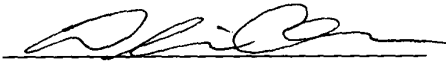
Prior to an examination of the present application, the Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to cancel claims 1-12, add new claims 13-18, and amend the specification in a manner similar to parent application Serial No. 09/580,818. No new matter has been added.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is kindly requested to contact Applicant's undersigned Attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any such matters so as to expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenji TAGAWA et al.

By 
Dhiren R. Odedra
Registration No. 41,227
Attorney for Applicants

DRO/jlg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
August 21, 2003